(a) prevention of Coastal Erosion, Lagoon Pollution, loss of biodiversity and damage of the reef system; (b) to deal effectively with various problems relating to pollution; (c) to exchange relevant information in this regard; (d) to take effective steps to ensure treatment of waste water from industries and sugar mills; (e) to evolve low cost and environmentally sound technologies for pollution control; (f) to take various other measures as appropriate to bring about improvement of environment and its protection.

IV. MOU on offering a fresh line of Credit of US$10 million for the Baie du Tombeau Sewerage Project:

This credit line will be operated by Exim Bank of India as per the norms and procedures in force and will be utilized by Government of Mauritius for implementing Baie du Tombeau Sewerage Project.

As regards the benefits which will accrue to India from these Agreements/ MOUs: It is hoped that these Agreements/MoUs will lead to increased economic cooperation between India and Mauritius and to improved communications between them. It is also envisaged that they will help both the countries to take requisite measures for better ensuring their internal security as well as for better protection and improvement of their environment.

(e) The bilateral relations between India and Mauritius are reviewed on a regular basis. There is continuous consultation and interaction between India and Mauritius at different levels. It would thus be ensured that these agreements are being implemented.

Nuclear energy co-operation between India and USA

3760. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Administration as well as the U.S. Congress has decided to launch negotiations with India on facilitating nuclear energy co-operation with India;

(b) if so, to what extent India has welcomed this move;

(c) whether U.S. has also decided to make a concerted bid through competitive prices and superior technology for 126 Fighter aircraft contract that India is currently seeking offers for from major defence manufacturers in France, Russia, U.S. and Sweden;

(d) if so, to what extent, India and U.S. have finally decided to obtain nuclear energy from U.S. and also aircraft deal; and

(e) whether India is satisfied with agreements reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During the External Affairs Minister's visit to Washington D.C. on 13-14 April, 2005, the India-U.S. Energy Dialogue has been announced which would be led by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and the US Energy Secretary Smauel Bodman. The main components of this dialogue would include civil nuclear energy, hydrocarbons and cleaner technologies. These are positive developments and we are hopeful that the Dialogue would lead to greater cooperation in the areas identified.

(c) On March 25, 2005, the US Under Secretary for Defence communicated approval for US companies to respond to the Indian Request for Information (RFI) for the Multi Role Combat Aircraft tender.

(d) & (e) The subject matters are under discussion and no decisions have yet been made. Government will take decisions on matters related to nuclear energy and defence based on India's national interest.

Liberal visa regime between India and Russia

3761. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has called for more liberal visa regime with India and has suggested an arrangement similar to what it has with France and Italy;

(b) whether this issue was discussed during the Russian Foreign Minister's visit to India in October, 2004;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Russia has proposed a more liberal visa regime with India.

(b) The issue of facilitating travel by Indian nationals, including businessmen, students and tourists has been taken up by the Government